

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 MC-02 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 IGA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2022

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0442

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS MU US

SUBJECT: OMANI REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TOW MISSILES

REF: MUSCAT 397 DTG 060800Z APR 76

1. EMBASSY HAS HAD FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH OMANI MINDEF OFFICIALS CONCERNING TOW MISSILE ARSENAL. MINDEF HAS REFINED THINKING AND PLANNING; AS A RESULT, THEY NOW LOOK TOWARD MAINTENANCE OF TOW FOR MINIMUM OF 10 YEARS IN OMANI ARSENAL.

2. PRESENTLY, OMANIS HOLD 177 MISSILES, 20 OF THESE BEING OF PRACTICE TYPE. AS OUTLINED EARLIER, SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES (SAF) WILL MAINTAIN READY SUPPLY AT EACH OF THREE SITES WHERE TOW PRESENTLY DEPLOYED. AS THIS READY BATTERY APPROACHES END OF 6 MONTH (UNPACKED) SHELF LIFE, MISSILES WILL BE USED FOR TRAINING. UNDER THIS PLAN, NO SEPARATE SUPPLY OF TRAINING MISSILES WILL BE MAINTAINED.

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3. SAF PLANNERS CALL FOR REPLENISHMENT OF STOCK

WHEN SUPPLY ON HAND APPROACHES 100 MISSILES; THIS IS IN ORDER TO SPIN OUT EXPENDITURES AND TO MAKE OPTIMUM USE OF NORMAL (PACKED) SHELF LIFE OF 5 YEARS. UNDER THIS PLAN, SAF NOW PROPOSES RESUPPLY SCHEDULE AS FOLLOWS: 50 MISSILES IN DECEMBER 1978; 100 MISSILES IN JUNE 1980; AND 50 MISSILES IN DECEMBER 1983. SAF PLANNERS ARE AWARE THAT THIS SCHEDULE WOULD BE BEYOND SCOPE OF DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE LOOKING TOWARD FIRST MANUFACTURER'S CONTRACT.

4. SAF OFFICIALS HAVE REQUESTED REACTION TO RESUPPLY SCHEDULE PROPOSED ABOVE. IF THIS APPEARS TO BE REASONABLE AND ACCEPTABLE PLAN, WHEN SHOULD STEPS BE TAKEN GO DECEMBER 1978 ORDER?
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SALES, MISSILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MUSCAT00442
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760146-0424
From: MUSCAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760450/aaaabqeh.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MUSCAT 397
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 FEB 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OMANI REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TOW MISSILES
TAGS: MASS, MU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006